

Information Item

California Postsecondary Education Commission

UC Merced Planning Update

Carol Tomlinson-Keasey, Chancellor of the University of California, Merced, will update the Commission on the development of the Merced campus. It was approved by the Commission in June 1999 as the tenth campus of the University of California system and will be located in the State's Central Valley region. That review by the Commission, as called for in Education Code 66903 and 66904, is contained in the report *Opening the Central Valley; A Review of the Board of Regents' Proposal to Build the University of California at Merced* (CPEC 99-2).

Chancellor Tomlinson-Keasey will review progress on the long-range development plan for the campus, environmental issues and assessments, estimated capital outlay needs and costs, administrative and faculty recruitment, and the status of the academic plan and specific degree programs.

Presenter: Chancellor Carol Tomlinson-Keasey.



UC Merced Planning Update

Commission approval of the UC Merced proposal

In June 1999, the California Postsecondary Education Commission approved the University of California at Merced as the tenth campus of the University system. The new general UC campus -- the system's first in over 40 years -- will be built near the city of Merced in California's Central Valley region.

The Commission's review of that campus, called for in Education Code 66903 and 66904, is contained in the report *Opening the Central Valley; A Review of the Board of Regents' Proposal to Build the University of California at Merced* (CPEC 99-2).

At this meeting, Chancellor Carol Tomlinson-Keasey, Chancellor of the UC Merced campus, will update the Commission on the development of the campus.

A report to the Commission in February 2000

Chancellor Tomlinson-Keasey gave a report to the Commission at its February 6, 2000 meeting in Los Angeles. She discussed the potential impact of the decision by Governor Gray Davis to open the UC Merced campus in Fall 2004, a year sooner than initially planned. Chancellor Tomlinson-Keasey noted then that this accelerated schedule created some problems in terms of the physical development of the campus. She described the work that needed to be completed, such as the campus's long-range development plan, the county's community plan, and concomitant environmental impact reports.

Chancellor Tomlinson-Keasey stated then that, upon successful conclusion to these studies, construction of the Science and Engineering building and the Library/Information Technology Center, the first two buildings planned for the UC Merced campus, would begin in 2002-03. She discussed other capital outlay needs and the source of funding for such costs. The Governor's 2000-01 State Budget provided \$14.3 million for the initial infrastructure development of the new campus.

In her report a year ago, Chancellor Tomlinson-Keasey outlined recruiting efforts for the deans of Natural Sciences, Engineering, and Social Sciences/Humanities/Arts and for other administrative posts. She reported that WASC accreditation eligibility was planned for 2002 and candidacy for 2004.

New developments

During the intervening period, planning by the University of California for the Merced campus has continued apace despite the environmental

concerns that have been raised about the site. The following are some highlights of recent developments:

- ♦ The Governor's 2001-02 State Budget proposes \$160.4 million in construction funds to cover the initial infrastructure and the first two buildings on campus and \$2 million in one-time funding for start-up expenses associated with faculty recruitment efforts.
- ♦ Vice Chancellors of Administration and Physical Planning were recently hired, the hiring of the Executive Vice Chancellor/Provost is nearing its conclusion, and the search for three deans – in Natural Sciences, Engineering, and Social Sciences/Humanities/Arts -- should also be completed by March; and
- ♦ The Golden Bobcat was selected as the school mascot, concluding a contest among local schools.

**An update on
evolution of the
UC Merced campus**

At the October 2000 Commission meeting held in Fresno, many Commissioners took time for a field trip to see the Virginia Smith Trust site of the UC Merced campus. That visit dramatically demonstrated the scope of the task and the vision required to build this new university.

At this meeting, Chancellor Tomlinson-Keasey will provide the Commission with an update on the evolution of the campus, including the long-range development plan, environmental assessments, estimated capital outlay needs and costs, administrative and faculty recruitment, and the status of the academic plan and specific degree programs for the campus.
